

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1 (currently amended). An in-mold coating method in which a resin molded product is molded and coated in a mold cavity formed between female and male molds, the method comprising:

a first step of injecting molten resin into a mold cavity with an injection machine;

a second step of molding a resin molded product after injecting of the molten resin into the mold cavity by reducing a volume of the mold cavity in accordance with a thermal contraction of the molten resin to shape the molten resin;

a third step of forming a gap for injecting a coating material between a resin molded product and a surface of the mold cavity by slightly opening the mold when the resin molded product solidifies to an extent to which the product can withstand the injecting pressure and flowing pressure of the coating material; and

a fourth step of injecting the coating material into the gap and clamping the mold again, wherein ~~the~~ mold-clamping forces in the second and fourth steps are controlled so that the deformation of the mold by clamping is substantially the same in the second and fourth steps, and

wherein ~~the~~ mold-clamping forces used in the second and fourth steps are substantially the same.

2-7 (canceled).

8 (currently amended). An in-mold coating method in which a resin molded product is molded and coated in a mold cavity formed between female and male molds, the method comprising:

a first step of injecting molten resin into a mold cavity with an injection machine;

a second step of molding a resin molded product after injecting of the molten resin into the mold cavity by reducing a volume of the mold cavity in accordance with a thermal contraction of the molten resin to shape the molten resin; and

a third step of injecting a coating material between a resin molded product and a surface of the mold cavity when the resin molded product solidifies to an extent to which the product can withstand the injecting pressure and flowing pressure of the coating material,

wherein ~~the~~ mold-clamping forces in the second and third steps are controlled so that the deformation of the mold by clamping is substantially the same in the second and third steps, and

wherein ~~the~~ mold-clamping forces used in the second and third steps are substantially the same.

9-15 (canceled).

16. (previously presented) The in-mold coating method according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure of the mold-clamping force in the fourth step on the coating material per unit area ranges from 1 to 20 MPa.

17. (previously presented) The in-mold coating method according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure of the mold-clamping force in the fourth step on the coating material per unit area ranges from 1 to 10 MPa.

18. (previously presented) The in-mold coating method according to Claim 1, wherein the mold-clamping forces used in the second and fourth steps are such that the difference between the mold-clamping forces in terms of in-mold pressures obtained by dividing the forces by the projected area of the mold cavity is 5 MPa or less.

19. (previously presented) The in-mold coating method according to Claim 1, wherein the mold-clamping forces used in the second and fourth steps are such that the difference between the mold-clamping forces in terms of in-mold pressures obtained by dividing the forces by the projected area of the mold cavity is 3 MPa or less.

20. (previously presented) The in-mold coating method according to Claim 1, wherein the mold-clamping forces used in the second and fourth steps are such that the difference between the mold-clamping forces in terms of in-mold pressures obtained by dividing the forces by the projected area of the mold cavity is 1 MPa or less.

21 (previously presented). The in-mold coating method according to Claim 8, wherein the pressure of the mold-clamping force in the third step on the coating material per unit area ranges from 1 to 20 MPa.

22 (previously presented). The in-mold coating method according to Claim 8, wherein the pressure of the mold-clamping force in the third step on the coating material per unit area ranges from 1 to 10 MPa.

23 (previously presented). The in-mold coating method according to Claim 8, wherein the mold-clamping forces used in the second and third steps are such that the difference in mold-clamping force in terms of in-mold pressure obtained by dividing mold-clamping force by the projected area of a mold cavity is 5 MPa or less.